

HELP!

At the end of September Michael Ruckridge received the following letter which is quoted verbatim. It was posted in St. Albans on 22nd September 1980. It was in block capitals, had no address and no signature, and was a xerox copy.

"To S.E.P.S.

Dear Sir,

We were very interested to read the remarks of Mrs M Cox in her letter to S.Mag. March 1980.

We wonder if any of your members are aware of a little known event of British Postal History, which took place some time ago, involving perforated stamps.

Some years ago, a batch of British stamps were marked with a series of punched holes for charity, a token amount of money was raised, and paid over to the appropriate charity.

We are of the opinion that these stamps were the first British charity stamps to be conveyed on cover by the postal service. Being aware of the attitude adopted towards perforated stamps by stamp collectors in general, and glue collectors in particular, of quickly passing them along the kiloware trail. The opportunity to possess one of the rarest British stamps will probably have been overlooked.

Should one of your members be fortunate enough to locate an example of these stamps, and provide details of the original venture, would, we feel, improve the status of the humble perf.

Should any of your members wish to investigate our remarks sufficient information is available to justify the effort. The stamps were marked in the following manner by No 5.



P.S. Sorry for the bars our rules do not permit free samples.

The poppy stamps are another event of British postal history"

At (A) was a 2p stamp perfinned:- D/HF 6/7,6 2½mm plus a(perforated)'stamp' in the form of an inverted triangle (base 20mm, height 13mm) with a small red poppy with black centre and green stalk running into the apex. The perfin is cancelled with two horizontal ink lines, the poppy 'stamp' by one. Michael says that the latter's design is very reminiscent of the Haig poppy and is "cancelled" with the letters PA/CS. Also enclosed was a stamp-size piece of paper with perforations similar, though not identical, to the above.

If anyone can throw any light on this mysterious letter Michael would be glad to hear from them. He can supply a copy to anyone interested.

N.B. Since receiving the above letter and passing on the data for publication Michael has been comparing the above "No 5" pattern with the Braille alphabet and has come up with the following but still meaningless solution.

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S . E . P . S . T O B of M U S